



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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Achieving the most impressive gain in production made by any major U. S. fishery this year, the Maine sardine industry has reported a pack of 12,082,023 pounds during the first third of 1944, or nearly triple the pack of 4,548,771 pounds in the same period last year, the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries announced today.

Maine sardine canneries normally pack about 10 percent of the year's total during the period from January 1 to April 30, the most active months for the industry being those from June to October.

Because of an anticipated severe shortage of cannery labor, the production of canned sardines in 1944 had previously been estimated at about 49,000,000 pounds, nearly a fourth of which has now been packed.

Officials of the Coordinator's Office said the year's sardine pack should be much larger than the estimated figure provided the people of Maine continue to respond to the appeals that have been made for full and part time workers in the canneries. The summer months, when the catch is at its peak, will be the critical period for the industry.

About 55 percent of the pack will be available for civilians, the remainder being requisitioned by the Government. Canned sardines bought by the Government are used for the armed forces, in Red Cross packages for prisoners of war, and for Lend Lease.